

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 09023 071526Z

53

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-03 IO-10 AGR-05 NSF-01 HEW-02

DODE-00 EPA-01 SMI-01 COME-00 AID-05 SP-02 PA-01

PRS-01 USIA-06 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /056 W

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R 071835Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9756

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 9023

DEPT PASS TO USDA/ARS HAINES AND ONR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TBIO, EAID, USINJC, IN, US

SUBJECT: US-GOI RESEARCH PROJECTS

REFS: A. DELHI 7905. B. DELHI 8371. C. STATE 147938.

D. DELHI 8679. E. STATE 155335.

1. S&T COUNSELOR HALD DETAILED DISCUSSION WITH NAG CHAUDHURI, DRAWING ON REFTELS SUBSTANCE, AND SPECIFICALLY INFORMING NAG THAT THE US GOVERNMENT DOES NOT PLAN TO APPROVE THE INFECTIOUS HEPATITIS OR THE BIOLOGICAL CONTROL OF CROP PESTS PROJECTS, OR OTHER PROJECTS WE FEEL MIGHT BE SUBJECT TO ATTACKS, UNTIL SATISFIED THE GOI WOULD PROTECT THEM AGAINST UNWARRANTED ATTACKS SIMILAR TO THAT MADE BY THE INDIAN PARLIAMENT'S PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE ON THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION MOSQUITO GENETIC PROJECT.

2. NAG CHAUDHURI AGREES POLICY AND PROCEDURES FOR PROTECTING GOI/USA RESEARCH PROJECTS IS A FIT SUBJECT FOR S&T SUBCOMMISSION DISCUSSION. HE UNDERSTANDS THERE MAY BE A COMMISSION MEETING IN SEPTEMBER, AND PROPOSES A S&T SUBCOMMISSION MEETING IN NOVEMBER. HE HAS OFFICIAL GOI APPROVAL TO PROCEED ON S&T SUBCOMMISSION MATTERS.

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PAGE 02 NEW DE 09023 071526Z

3. NAG CHAUDHURI SAID HE DID NOT SEE WHY THE GOI COULD NOT

MAKE A PUBLIC DENIAL OF THE CHARGES AGAINST THE WHO PROJECT.

4. EMBASSY EXPECTS HE WILL DISCUSS THIS MATTER INFORMALLY WITH HIS COLLEAGUES IN THE HEALTH AND OTHER MINISTRIES, BUT STILL FEELS THAT A PUBLIC DENIAL IS NOT HIGHLY PROBABLE.

5. NAG CHAUDHURI SAID IT IS DIFFICULT TO EXCLUDE ATTACKS FROM THE PRESS AND PARLIAMENT. THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE GAVE HIM A HARD TIME SOME YEARS AGO ON A BOAT CAULKING PROJECT, GOOD BUT NOT PUBLICIZED, OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE. NAG WISHED MOD RECORDS HAD BEEN MORE COMPLETE AT THAT TIME.

6. NAG SUGGESTS THAT IT WOULD BE WISE TO SEE: (A) THAT RESEARCH PROPOSALS AND PROJECTS ARE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC; AND (B) THAT PERTINENT RECORDS CONTAIN CLEAR STATEMENTS AS TO WHY THE OBJECTIVE IS IMPORTANT, WHAT IS THE GOI INTEREST, AND WHAT IS THE USG INTEREST. THIS WOULD TAKE THE WIND OUT OF THE SAILS OF ANY ATTACKS.

7. IN ADDITION, NAG SUGGESTED WE DISCUSS METHODS FOR PROTECTING THE INFECTIOUS HEPATITIS IN INDIA PROPOSAL WITH THE INDIAN COUNCIL FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH AND THE BIOLOGICAL CONTROL OF CROP PESTS PROPOSAL WITH THE INDIAN COUNCIL FOR AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH (SEE DELHI'S 8371, REF. B.).

8. NAG CHAUDHURI CLEARLY UNDERSTANDS THE PROBLEM. WE'LL SEE WHAT HE CAN DO ABOUT IT.

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